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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1013

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE

COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES

March 24, 2023

The Honorable
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies

The Honorable
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies

Dear Chairman and Ranking Member:

I am requesting funding for the Tifton Veterinary Diagnostic Lab Project in Fiscal Year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of Georgia located at 198 Waddell Street, Athens, GA 30601.

The University of Georgia (UGA) would use this funding to improve infrastructure of the Tifton Laboratory, including upgrades to the outdated HVAC, air-handling system, and critical electrical systems. Additionally, it would use this funding to purchase a new incinerator, which is required for the safe disposal of animal waste, including livestock carcasses. UGA would also purchase next generation sequencers and digital PCR equipment for rapid detection of pathogens, the monitoring and surveillance of antimicrobial resistance. This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds as it will increase public health and safety. Specifically, it will increase the ability to detect foreign animal diseases, economically significant diseases of poultry and livestock, and zoonotic diseases that are transmissible from animals to humans. The laboratory is located in Tift County and will serve almost all of the 159 counties in Georgia that are associated with agriculture, and companion animal and human public health.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



David Scott
Member of Congress